

CDPAC Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2002
State Capitol Building

Welcome, Introductions and Committee Business

Marie Poulsen chaired the meeting. She welcomed everyone and noted the great agenda put together by CDPAC staff. She read a message from Kathy Malaske-Samu reminding us that even in times of scarce resources we can continue moving forward, even if with smaller steps. The Committee members introduced themselves, followed by the staff and audience.

Dr. Poulsen welcomed Venus Garth to the Committee and congratulated her on her new position. She then asked for comments from the Committee and audience. Mary Emmons shared resources people working with or parenting young children can use in helping them to deal with the upcoming September 11 anniversary.

Cindy Lovett with the Child Development Training Consortium (CDTC) provided information about the Child Development Permit Application Process. Through and funding from the Department of Education's Child Development Division and the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC), CDTC is now able to cover the application and fingerprint (Live Scan) processing fees for more than 3,000 individuals seeking first-time, renewal and upgraded Child Development Permits for Assistant, Associate Teacher, Teacher, Master Teacher, Site Supervisor and Program Director. Applicants must be employed in California and working with children from birth to five.

Dee Cuney announced that after 31 years in family child care she has retired but will be looking for new ways to continue her advocacy role in child care and development.

The Committee adopted the June 2002 minutes as drafted.

Executive Director's Report

Kay Ryan welcomed everyone back and remarked about the many years of expertise in early care and education represented in the room. She recognized Louise Johnston in her new position as Executive Director of the California Alliance Concerned with School Age Parenting. Ms. Ryan mentioned that the Governor will sign the State Budget today and Lupe Alonzo-Diaz from the Children's Advocacy Institute will report on what it holds for child care and other programs serving children and families later in the meeting.

The agenda will also include presentations about:

★ Two of the bills that have made it to the Governor's desk:

- SB 1661 (Kuehl) would give Californians the right to paid leave from their jobs to care for ailing relatives or to bond with new children. Organized labor strongly supports this measure and business is strongly in opposition.
- SB 390 (Escutia), the bill to develop a Child Care Master Plan, is on the Governor's desk after significant effort by many, especially Senator Escutia and the Child Care Law Center.

★ Important federal legislation:

- S. 2758 (Dodd), the Access to High Quality Child Care Act, is the federal bill to reauthorize the Child Care Block Grant. Hopefully, it will move forward as part of a package with HR 4737, the bill to reauthorize Welfare Reform. S. 2758 would result in an actual increase of \$1 billion to states. It's three primary tenets are: 1) current recipients of child care subsidies must be held harmless; 2) the new population of people working under Welfare Reform must be covered; and, 3) assistance to the working poor must be expanded. It is possible these bills may not be heard this year. In that case, the current Welfare Reform and Child Care Block Grant provisions will continue.

★ An update on the requirements imposed on child care providers by the emergency regulations put in effect last month by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), and the public hearing process regarding those regulations;

★ Stone Soup, the Transfer of Knowledge Symposium to increase access to quality child care for children with disabilities;

★ An exciting endeavor by the state to ensure that the child care provided in state-owned buildings is of consistently high quality; and

★ Proposed changes to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)'s accreditation process.

The 10th Annual Latino Health Conference, an event that continues to grow, is coming up on October 3rd in Santa Rosa. This conference welcomes young people and offers scholarships to students considering careers in the health and human service professions. Information is available in today's packets.

Ms. Ryan thanked the State Library for putting together the CRIB Notes and for enabling CDPAC to make this valuable resource about current research available to the field.

She asked the Committee to approve Action Item #2 and grant authorization for the Director to sign contracts to receive funds to be used for the Transfer of Knowledge Symposium that will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento on November 15. The Committee agreed and approved the motion.

Mary Emmons suggested the Committee adopt a resolution to commend the Los Angeles County Prop 10 Commission for their historic action in funding the universal preschool. Dr. Poulsen said that this and other county Prop 10 efforts are commendable. However,

the Committee cannot take action on an item that is not published ten days in advance of the meeting, so this will be discussed at the next meeting. Bonnie Parks asked the staff to provide members with information about best practices in the different communities and to post the reports on the website.

State Employees Child Care Program

Kenn Kojima, Deputy Director, California Department of General Services (DGS)

Kenn Kojima, Deputy Director, and Clothilde Hewlett, Interim Director of the Department of General Services introduced themselves. Mr. Kojima said the new Education Building on the southeastern side of the Capitol was completed and inaugurated yesterday. There are 23 California State facilities caring for approximately 1,200 children. Representatives of these facilities began meeting this summer to discuss issues such as curriculum, staffing, dropping off and picking up children, etc. They divided into four study groups. The next meeting of the entire group will be on October 9. He invited anyone who would like to attend to contact CDPAC staff for further information. DGS is hoping that a state agency with the appropriate expertise will take over responsibility for the child care curriculum so that the children will receive the best early childhood education possible. Ms. Hewlett spoke about the need to develop a partnership and collaboration for the state child care facilities that can be used to aid other public child care facilities within the state as well as the nation.

Q. What is the youngest age accepted in care?

A. Six weeks.

Q. What are the four study groups?

- A.** 1) Educational standards and accreditation, staffing and compensation
2) Facilities and ADA special needs
3) Enrollment, vacancies, waiting list, infant care and special needs
4) Education involvement, governance, changing state statutes, communication and employee benefits.

Q. How many of the facilities are accredited?

A. None

Joyce De Witt commended them on their efforts. Dianne Philibosian thanked them for their information and said that the Committee is made up of various state agencies and can offer them support.

NAEYC Accreditation Update

Kathy Brumley, Associate Director for Programs, California Association of Education for Young Children

Kathy Brumley came to California from Texas. The Texas NAEYC program does not have as many programs for children as California and she was amazed at the progress being made here. She noted that at the upcoming NAEYC conference in New York on

November 21, the recommendations for changes in accreditation will be announced. She said that the focus for NAEYC has been from birth to age eight. They are looking at changing that to from birth through kindergarten.

She spoke about the accreditation process. Accreditation is voluntary, but to be accredited you must be in business and licensed for at least one year. An emphasis is placed on staff/child ratios and the interactions between staff and children. The quality for the children is the key.

When receiving accreditation, there is a fee based on the number of children at the center. A box of materials containing information and surveys for staff and families is given to providers to assist them in preparing for the accreditation process. Evaluators visit providers at their centers and assess them based on 400 items. It is possible to request and obtain waivers on some items, depending on the judgment of the review committee. Minimum standards are based on the standards in each state.

Q. Credentialed teachers still are unable to address some of the children with needs that require a specialized person at the site. How are you working with that issue?

A. We have modules that we use with the centers and homes we are accrediting. Along with diversity, we look at that in every item that we review. We encourage support by giving them lists of people in their area that can provide help.

Q. Will previously accredited centers have to be re-accredited when the new rules and regulations come out?

A. They have always had to go through a renewal process. One of the changes being looked at is to extend the renewal requirement from three years to five years.

Q. It has been said that faith-based centers are losing points in their accreditation for having religious content in their program. How is that addressed in the accreditation process and the need for diversity?

A. Ms. Brumley said she was surprised to hear this. She has validated many faith-based centers personally. In 1998, NAEYC's language was changed to acknowledge faith-based curricula in the accreditation process and religious content is now considered part of the program's curriculum.

Accreditation: Provider's Perspective

Alix Hall, Executive Director, Discovery Tree Learning Center

Discovery Tree Schools operates six child development centers in the Sacramento area, four of which are in state sponsored buildings. Discovery Tree Centers are not accredited through NAEYC; however, staff and consultants evaluate their centers using the ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale) and other instruments. She advises providers that if a center is not full or does not have a waiting list, they need to evaluate why that is.

Ms. Hall said that it is critical for a child development consultant to be involved in the design of a facility. She described her experience with a center that was not designed well. Parents would enter and exit through the playground, which several times resulted in children escaping. The kitchen area was used as a diapering area. The center is licensed for 60 children but the playground capacity is only 38, so playground times must be rotated. The center was designed artistically but is not very functional.

She suggested relief from some fees charged by DGS, such as for janitorial services that can be provided by the state, to free up funds for staffing and suggested that DGS help with accreditation fees if accreditation becomes a DGS requirement. She said there is a great relationship between DGS, the centers and the nonprofit parent boards.

Ms. Philibosian applauded the whole process of looking at the quality in the centers and said the lessons learned by those working in child care in the military may be applicable to the state child care facilities. She noted that, speaking of child care facilities in general, design errors are made by architects with wonderful intentions. Michael Jett also noted that it is important to have a child care facilities expert work along with an architect when designing a center. Joyce De Witt commended all the elected officials working toward improving situations in child care facilities.

Ms. Brumley talked about going through the accreditation process as a director. She said the building complex and its design are reviewed first. A center looking for accreditation should feel that they have quality child care and are just looking for ways to improve it. The process of getting accredited helps providers recognize and achieve administrative and programmatic quality standards. It includes things like having all the center's paperwork in order, and knowing where it is. A big issue for getting accreditation in Texas was to be sure there was no old paint or asbestos in the building and to get a certificate to that effect. It took about a year to get everything in order for the evaluation visit. The visit by the evaluators took a whole day with one or two evaluators, depending on the size of the center. Then the accreditation came a few months after that. At the end of the day of the evaluation, the evaluators speak with the center director to go over the critique and criteria issues. She stressed that a center should not let money and equipment get in the way of getting accredited as a quality provider.

SB 1661 (Kuehl) – Parental Leave
Rona Sherriff, Senate Office of Research

Dianne Philibosian took over as chair of the meeting and introduced Rona Sherriff. Ms. Sherriff said she works on employment and labor policy for the Senate. Paid Family Leave is an important issue in the United States, but we are behind the curve. A new mother in Chile can take up to 18 weeks off after her child's birth. French women are entitled to 16 weeks. Italian mothers get 20 weeks. All at 100 percent pay. The Family Medical Leave Act, passed in 1993, has provisions protecting family members who take time off from work. Studies done by the Department of Labor show that 78 percent of the workers who did not take time off for a birth or a family emergency cited their inability to afford to take the time off without pay. Near the end of the Clinton

Administration regulations were passed regarding Baby Unemployment Insurance. These regulations provided states with the opportunity to change their unemployment insurance to allow parents to take time off after the birth of a child. Though no states passed laws to allow this, it started states thinking about how they provide paid family leave. In California, the State Disability Insurance (SDI) program provided a framework to create a paid family leave program. California, Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island have an SDI program that gives a wage replacement for a non-work related illness or injury or for pregnancy.

SB 1661 enhances SDI by adding time off to take care of a seriously ill family member and bonding time with a new child. When specified eligibility requirements are met, it provides SDI for up to six weeks at about 55 percent wage replacement. If signed, it becomes effective in 2003. Employee contributions would begin January 2004 and benefits would start being paid out in July 2004.

Ms. Sherriff said the amazing thing about this bill is the low cost. The reason it is so low is because of the huge number of employees in this state. An average cost for the six weeks of benefits, totally paid by the employee, would be about \$27 a year, or \$2.25 a month. An average worker would receive \$366 a week for up to six weeks. A minimum wage worker would pay \$0.94 a month and receive \$158 a week. There are no costs to the employer.

The bill includes checks and balances to keep employees from abusing the system. It can be used only once in a 52-week period. As with SDI, there are certification requirements, and the Employment Development Department (EDD) will develop a certification process for bonding. Like SDI, there is a required one-week waiting period. Employers can require employees to use up to two weeks of accrued vacation pay before taking up to six weeks of wage replacement benefits. Provisions were added to require an employee with other paid family leave benefits to take it concurrent with this benefit, and to be sure that the employee is the only family member available to take care of a seriously ill family member. Senator Kuehl believes this bill will result in lower turnover and greater job retention.

Ms. Sherriff gave an example of how a pregnant woman would use this time off. She currently is entitled to take two weeks off prior to the birth of her child and four weeks afterwards. After those six weeks of benefits, she could apply for up to six weeks of bonding time.

She said the bill is on the Governor's desk and asked the Committee and the audience to encourage him to sign it. The bill has gained attention and support nationally as well as in California.

Mary Emmons said she knows the importance of this bill but said there may be employer issues about low staffing and the potential for having to pay for a replacement worker while an employee is on leave. Ms. Sherriff said that a replacement cost is less because employers are not paying two workers' wages but only the one for the replacement. She

said it might be important for EDD to track if some industries are more affected by this bill than others. Ms. Philibosian noted that the cost to replace a worker in this field could be higher because of the need to hire a specialized person.

Q. Does the bill require an employee to return to the same employer?

A. No. And there is no new requirement that an employer retain the job. Safety nets are in place, but this bill adds no new safety nets.

Master Plan for Child Care – SB 390 (Escutia)

Nancy Strohl, Executive Director, Child Care Law Center

Nancy Strohl commented on how lucky the Governor was to have the two bills, SB 1661 and SB 390, on his desk. She said that CDPAC and many of the audience members have been strong supporters, and some worked on developing the framework of SB 390 and have worked hard on the Master Plan concept. The bill would take effect January 1, 2003. There have been no substantive changes, but compromises were made to get the bill passed. The money was reduced. And the number of public hearings was dropped from 20 to six, three prior to March 31, to allow time to develop an interim report by March 31, 2004, with a final report due January 4, 2005. The California Department of Education (CDE) is the lead agency on the bill. As passed, the Legislature would appropriate \$140,000 in each of the next two fiscal years, and a minimum of \$140,000 would be contributed by non-state sources, such as the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The bill has been supported by the California Children and Families Commission and would complement work they have done already. It will be an inclusive process and will look at the entire childhood system. It will estimate the real costs to serve all eligible subsidized children, and those still excluded who are slightly above the subsidy level, with quality care.

In view of the continuing state budget crisis, there will be ongoing meetings beginning next week to discuss specific areas in more depth. Through the Children's Roundtable, the Children's Law Center, CDPAC and other organizations, tentatively four substantive work groups will be set up; 1) license-exempt care; 2) staff compensation, retention and professional development; 3) provider payments and rate structure; and, 4) affordability and eligibility. This will prepare those in the field with good proposals to present to the Women's Caucus when the time comes to discuss the budget.

She encouraged everyone to urge the Governor to sign the bill. It is very important that he knows this is important and a widely supported legislation.

Ms. Ryan said that CDPAC meetings will continue to be a forum for discussion of this issue. The November meeting may include a discussion of the various proposals developed in the work groups over the next few months.

Children's Budget and Legislative News

Lupe Alonzo-Diaz, Senior Policy Advocate, Children's Advocacy Institute

Lupe Alonzo-Diaz said the state budget was signed an hour and a half ago, 61 days late. She reviewed the budget process and the state deficit of \$24 billion. The Senate passed the budget on June 29. The Assembly Republicans wanted more cuts to be made and did not want to raise taxes, so July passed with little being done. August went by slowly after early rumors of budget passage. The Assembly finally passed the budget just after midnight on August 31st. There were no specific programmatic changes in the Legislative budget. The Assembly passed the budget bill and the trailer bills essentially as the Senate passed them two months earlier. The bill had language allowing the Governor to reduce state operations by an additional \$750 million. She outlined several items that do not impact this field. Revenue enhancements include a deferral of \$681 million in Prop 98 money from this fiscal year to next fiscal year.

Based on a quick look at the signed budget, almost half of the closing of the \$23.6 billion deficit is based on program reductions and the Tobacco Settlement funds. Child care is funded this year as well as CalWORKs Stages 1, 2, and 3 child care. The K-12 COLA is maintained at two percent for apportionment as well as categorical programs. The Governor had proposed in January 2002 to eliminate Healthy Start. The Legislature put back only \$19 million of the usual \$36-\$37 million funding for this program, but the Governor reduced this by \$17 million, leaving only \$2 million for Healthy Start. There is a \$22 million reduction in the Child Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which serves primarily children from low-income families. Provider rates were reduced to the pre-August 2000 level, as proposed in the Governor's Proposed Budget in January 2002. There will be no Healthy Families Parental Expansion. He also reduced \$13 million from the Systems of Care, mental health services for children. There was a \$5 million reduction in Adoptions in the CDSS budget. This represents about a ten percent reduction. There also were reductions in CalWORKs adult education and administrative funds. There was a reduction of \$3 million in farm worker housing and other reductions in housing and homeless assistance programs. She said that from her own perspective, she is disappointed with the final outcome since the Legislature did not address any of the big issues but left the decisions to the Governor. She said she would provide CDPAC with a comprehensive analysis of the budget.

Ms. Philibosian thanked Ms. Alonzo-Diaz for her speedily developed and very clear and informative presentation.

Emergency Regulations: Child Care Provider Background Check Process

Melissa Miller, California Department of Social Services (CDSS)

Ms. Miller reviewed the background on why the emergency regulations had to be developed. They became effective on August 8th. CDPAC and CDSS have dispersed information on the regulations and the procedures to providers and the field. Information also is posted on the CDSS website. The new regulations cover three items. The key item is that child care providers are required to provide parents who ask them with the

name of anyone in their facility who has a criminal record exemption and some description of what that person's job duties or association with the facility is. They also are required to give parents a parents' rights form, which clearly says the parents have the right to that information and a flyer which describes the exemption process. It is intended to assure parents that the process is a thorough one and that people with serious crimes do not get an exemption. The third requirement is that providers post a parents' rights poster. The information has to be provided to parents at the time a child enrolls. It also must be provided to parents of currently enrolled children and must be verified by a signature. If a parent asks if anyone there has a criminal record, the provider must document the request, initial it and have the parent initial it. There is a provision for civil penalties if the provider does not comply with the regulations. The CDSS has a progressive three-tiered civil penalty procedure for non-compliance.

Public hearings will be held on October 15, 16 and 17 in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Oakland. Written comments, due October 17, are gladly accepted from anyone who cannot attend. The Department will consider all input in developing the final regulations.

- Q.** The regulation also says parents can get the information from CDSS. Which process is required?
- A.** If a parent doesn't want to talk to the provider about it, the provider can tell them the same information is available at the local Licensing Office. However, if the parent asks the provider, the provider has to tell them. They cannot just tell them to call CDSS. Neither CDSS nor the provider can provide information about the type of crime or what the person has done to rehabilitate themselves. For right now, they can only give the name of the person.
- Q.** Have there been calls from parents?
- A.** So far there has not been a huge increase.
- Q.** Will there be a record of programs that let people go because of previous criminal activity? There is concern in the field about a "witch hunt."
- A.** At this point we have no way to document that. This is an issue that should be brought up at the public hearings.

State Reports

Melissa Miller, CDSS, Community Care Licensing Division

When the Governor issued his directive in March requiring the new regulations, he also required a six-month moratorium on the processing of all criminal record exemptions and a study of the process during that time. A report will be issued when the study is completed. Ms. Miller predicted that any changes would be toward tightening up the process. The moratorium is scheduled to end in late September.

In the future, school age child care centers will be visited only once every three years rather than once a year.

Venus Garth, CDSS, Work Services Branch

Ms. Garth said it is nice to be back working with the Committee. She has been in her new position for less than a month. Staff in the Child Care Bureau are reviewing provisions of the Federal TANF Reauthorization Bill and the Child Care Block Grant.

It looks like CalWORKs child care funding will remain the same. That includes \$455 million for the 71,000 children in Stage 1, \$654 million to serve 103,000 children in Stage 2 and \$359 million to serve 58,000 children in Stage 3. The budget identifies a reserve for Stages 1 and 2. CDSS is continuing to work with the California Department of Education (CDE) to monitor expenditures throughout the year. Assembly Bill 444, a trailer bill, limits retroactive child care payments into Stage 1. The Department is developing regulations to reflect the statute that specifies when retroactive payments are reimbursable. Those regulations are required to be out by July 1, 2003.

Michael Jett, California Department of Education

Mr. Jett said that last year the Department had a budget of about \$2.26 billion, including federal money and reserves. This year they have about \$2.32 billion. Most of the increase is due to the Stage 3 caseload increase. They have \$308 million for state preschool. General Child Care was restored to \$604 million. There is about \$32 million in the migrant center based program. The non-CalWORKs Alternative Payment program has about \$208 million. There is about \$29.4 million in the Latchkey program, which no longer has a sunset. And there is about \$5.5 million for Local Planning Councils. The Department does not yet know how the \$750 million in state administrative cuts will affect staffing levels.

They are working with CDSS, the Department of Finance and the Legislative Analyst's Office to re-do the Regional Market Rate.

Now that the budget has been signed, they can distribute most of the \$14.76 million in state preschool projects money in the nine counties that had not met their need. The passing applications in those counties add up to about \$11 million of this money.

Regarding SB 1703, the \$1 million for equipment and materials has been distributed to the Resource and Referral (R & R) agencies in every county. The \$12.6 million to promote inclusion at the local levels was to go to either R & Rs or Local Planning Councils (LPC). They asked the local R & Rs and LPCs to get together and submit a plan to the Department. Plans have been received from all but one county. A revised allocation plan was submitted to the Department of Finance on August 21 regarding the \$28.4 million in SB 1703 to upgrade playgrounds to meet the new playground regulations.

Cheri Schoenborn, Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Ms. Schoenborn said she would be better able to address the budget after the Department has an opportunity to review it. DDS has developed a training plan for the coming year. The training, provided through a contract with WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention, will assist people to provide services for children with disabilities and their

families and to help these children receive assistance in their everyday environment. Information about their program and the training can be found on their website at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/earlystart>. The training institutes will take place in October, November and December.

The Infant Development Association (IDA), an organization in California that supports the providers of early intervention services, will also provide training in October. Information is available at <http://www.ida.org>. They will hold a conference in March 2003 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

The state Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) includes community representatives. In August, Kathy Walker was named as a community representative, representing the California Association of Local Child Care Planning Councils. The Governor also named to the ICC, Dr. Sylvia Carlisle, Michelle Douyon-Davis, a parent of a child with disabilities, Toni Gonzales, a parent of a child with disabilities as well as Executive Director of the Families Caring for Families Family Resource Center, Hedy Hansen and Gretchen Hester, both parents of a child with a disability, Kerry Mazzoni, Secretary of Education, Dr. Thomas P. McCool, Devereux Foundation and member of the Advisory Board of the Mind Institute, Beverly Morgan-Sandoz representing Head Start and Early Head Start, Theresa Rossini, a parent of a child with a disability, and Daniel Zingale, Director of the Department of Managed Health Care. The next ICC meeting is scheduled for September 26 and 27, in San Diego. Information about the meeting is available on the DDS website.

Ms. Schoenborn also reported on the August 20 planning meeting for the Transfer of Knowledge Symposium, Stone Soup. There will be three major components: 1) background information about child care and children with disabilities as well as a dramatization; 2) best practices for serving children with disabilities in child care settings; and, 3) development of local action plans by attendees. Decision makers are asked to attend and do some planning on what the community will do to make sure child care has options for children with disabilities and other special needs. Linda Parfitt talked about the information being gathered on best practices and the importance of the symposium. Attendees are encouraged to bring their county plans, SB 1703 plans, Local Planning Council plans, and the strategic plans developed by their Children and Families Commission. Some interesting speakers will be there and there will be a follow up sometime afterward. Ms. Schoenborn said the Transfer of Knowledge symposium is on Friday, November 15, at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento. She thanked Kay Ryan, Sharon Rea Zone and the rest of the CDPAC staff for putting the symposium together.

Sarah Neville, California Children and Families Commission

The Commission has a new identity for purposes of media communication and program: "First Five." Its logo is a handprint rather than a building block. They also have a new ad campaign. There are two new ads on early childhood development and two new anti-smoking ads. They have 15 ads in six languages running on television now. The languages are English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Cantonese and Mandarin. The

purpose of the ads is to advertise the Kit for New Parents. There were 40,000 requests from parents for the kit in July alone. They receive an average of 1,500 requests per day.

Los Angeles County will soon have universal health care as well as universal access to preschool. The Prop 10 Commission voted in July to provide universal health care for all children 0-5 years up to 300 percent of the poverty level, including undocumented children. They are working toward a January 2003 implementation date. The program would provide \$100 million to cover 15,000 children in Los Angeles County who are ineligible for other publicly funded programs. Other counties providing universal health care are San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Francisco and Riverside. A few weeks ago the Los Angeles Prop 10 Commission approved funding for universal access to preschool. This is another \$100 million commitment. The goal is to make quality preschool and early care available to every child in Los Angeles. In addition, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education has committed to set aside \$80 million for early childhood education in the School Construction Bond on the November ballot. The universal preschool will roll out in phases and will focus on three key objectives: 1) to expand the availability of early education programs for young children; 2) to improve the quality of these programs; and, 3) to improve the readiness of the early parent education work force by focusing on an integrated training and professional development system.

At their retreat several months ago, the State Commission selected five focus areas to explore for potential program and policy development: oral health, mental health, informal care, migrant and seasonal agricultural farmworker families and their children, and children with disabilities and other special needs. Research and evaluation will be a component of all five areas. They are still in the information gathering and discussion phase. In the fall, some action items should be available for review.

Work continues on the School Readiness Initiative. The purpose is to enhance children's readiness for school and school's readiness for the children, with significant support for families built into the program. The final Master Plan for Education is scheduled to go to print on September 6, 2002 and can be found on the Senate website <http://www.senate.ca.gov>.

Ms. Philibosian thanked everyone for a very informative meeting and adjourned the meeting.

ATTENDEES AT SEPTEMBER 5, 2002 CDPAC MEETING

Committee Members

Eleanor Moulton, EduCare
Bonnie Parks, Employment Development Dept.
Earl Peterson, Child Care Consultant
Marie Kanne Poulsen, USC Childrens Hospital
Cheri Schoenborn, Dept. of Developmental Services
Mary M. Emmons, Children's Institute International
Dianne Philibosian, Public Member

Joyce Hanson, Grandparent/Child Advocate
Venus Garth, CA Dept. of Social Services
Evelyn Mason, Grandparent/Child Advocate+
Melissa Miller, CA Dept. of Social Services
Joyce De Witt, Public Member
Michael Jett, CDE/CDD

Participants:

Cindy Lovett, Child Development Training Consortium
Charlene Tressler, Child Development Associates
Kathi Walker, El Dorado County LPC
Kathy Brumley, CAEYC
Cecelia Fisher-Dahms, CDE/CDD
Kenn Kojima, DGS-RESO
Jennifer Dwight-Frost, Amador Child Care Council
Alix Hall, Discovery Tree Learning Center
Tim Fitzharris, Child Development Policy
Diana Short, Community Resources for Children
Marcie Castro, Community Resources for Children
Mark Carlson, Lutheran Office of Public Policy
Leanne Leak, Association of Christian Schools Intl.
Nancy Strohl, Child Care Law Center
Giselle Vioneron, State and Consumer Services Agency
Lin Batten, Sacto Co. Children & Families Commission
Clothilde Hewlett, DGS
Jody Windisch, Marin Child Care Council
Cheryl Allen, WestED CPEI
Andrew Scott, YMCA of San Francisco
Steven Thaxton, Children and Families Commission
Louise Johnston, Alliance Concerned with School
Age Parenting (CAC SAP)

Barbara Coulibaly-Robinson
Marilyn Rotnem, Merced County LPC
Caroline Roady, Colusa County Child Care LPC
Dee Cuney, Private Child Care Network
Linda M. Parfitt, CDE/CDD
Pam Grigsby, CDSS
April Befumo, Stanislaus County LPC
Kathi Linqvist, CCCOE/LPC Contra Costa
Pat Dorman, On the Capitol Doorstep
Vera Nicholas, California State Library
Lyn Vice, CDSS
Susanne Milton, El Dorado Co. Office of Education
Kim Johnson, Children's Network of Solano County
Billee Willson, Sacto Co. Dept. of Human Assistance
Mardi Lucich, California Childcare Health Program
Cherise Witherspoon, DGS, RESO
Judy Kriege, Bananas
Louise Boley
Tony Anderson, SCDD
Aideen Gaidmore, Marin Child Care Council
Lisa Foster, California State Library, CRB
Billee Willson, Sacramento County DHA
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